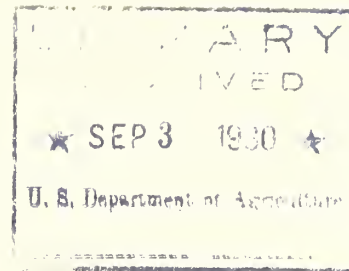


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STEM RUST AND BARBERRY NEWS

Issued by

Office of Barberry Eradication

Volume I

August 25, 1930

Number 8

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Bureau of Plant Industry
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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GOOD PROGRESS MADE WITH FIELD WORK

After completing more than a month of travel, in the course of which it was possible to walk through typical barberry eradication areas and meet a large percentage of the field force, I am much impressed by the earnest and successful efforts which are being put into the attack on some very difficult field problems. Open farm lands and wood lots, suburban property, limestone cliffs, swamps, thickets on islands and in river bottoms, mountain ravines with heavy undergrowth, reservoirs and irrigation ditches, country clubs, and estates adjacent to small grain growing areas - all of these and other situations give rise to special problems for the field force and the local Leader in charge. Boundless enthusiasm for the job is the rule throughout the territory, however, and both field observations and the season's records, which are accumulating in Washington, indicate that excellent progress is being made with eradication, educational activities, and research.

F. C. M.

G. A. O. Decisions

(A-31495)

9 Comp. Gen. 465

EMPLOYEES' COMPENSATION BENEFITS - RETIREMENT ANNUITY

A Government employee permanently and totally disabled by an injury incurred in the performance of official duty, for which injury a third party is liable and responds in damages, may elect between the receipt of benefits under the employees' compensation act of September 7, 1916, 39 Stat. 747, in reduction of which benefits he must apply all amounts received from the third party for such injury, or the receipt of an annuity under the civil service retirement act of July 3, 1926, 44 Stat. 907. If electing the retirement annuity, the employee must make

the United States whole as to all benefits received under the employees' compensation act in cash or by way of medical or hospital treatment, but is not required to apply the damages received from the third party against the annuity payments.

(A-29959)

9 Comp. Gen. 476

CHECKS - INDORSEMENTS - FORGERIES

The maker of a Government check is responsible for any loss when he draws the check and deals directly with the particular person under the name used, though deceived as to his identity, and it is immaterial whether the imposter appears in person before the drawer or conducts his business by correspondence if the drawer intends the check to be received by the man who made the written application therefor.

(A-30477)

9 Comp. Gen. 458

TRANSPORTATION FURNISHED ON TRANSPORTATION REQUESTS - MILEAGE - APPROPRIATIONS CHARGEABLE

The cost of transportation furnished on transportation requests is chargeable to the appropriation current on the date the request is exchanged for a ticket and the contract of transportation thereby entered into with the common carrier, except in cases in which the traveler is entitled to reimbursement on a mileage basis, with deduction for transportation procured on the request, in which event the appropriation chargeable with the mileage payment is chargeable also with the cost of transportation.

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(Reported by Miss Laura Hamilton)

Tentative rust damage estimates on wheat have been made by Messrs. Butler, Ukkelberg, and Walter for the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Their statement follows: "Five hundred grain samples were collected in different counties of these States, and estimates of damage made by comparing these samples with standard samples. In North Dakota heaviest stem rust damage occurred in the three northeastern counties and in four or five counties in the area from Cando to Carrington. Total damage for the State, based on last year's production figures, is estimated at 1.7 per cent. In Minnesota the heaviest damage occurred in counties along the Minnesota River and in the area between the Twin Cities and Willmar. Damage for the Red River Valley area is estimated at 3 per cent, and for the State as a whole at 3.07 per cent. In South Dakota stem rust damage was almost entirely confined to the three Missouri Valley

counties in the southeastern corner of the State and to Roberts and Grant Counties in the northeast. In these two areas damage was estimated at 5 per cent on Marquis wheat. Elsewhere in South Dakota rust development was checked by premature ripening due to high temperatures so that for this year damage from heat entirely overshadowed damage from rust. Rust loss for the State as a whole will be only a small fraction of one per cent."

Stem rust loss in other grains in the three States is practically negligible, except for slight damage to late fields of barley in some areas.

EASTERN REGION

Ohio - 8 East Broad Street, Columbus - Harry Atwood

While inspecting a property for common barberries, did you ever find a planted hedge located in the garden or the chicken yard after all other places about the premises had been gone over and it looked as though it were "just another property with no barberries?" If so you can imagine the thrill of the field man who after looking over a property near Ft. Recovery, one day in early August, came upon a forty foot hedge of large barberries growing in a chicken yard with two more clumps of big ones near by.

A heavily rusted wheat field was found by the field men working in Butler Township, Mercer County, a few weeks ago. The rusted wheat field was on the farm of Mr. Barenly Dues located two and one-half miles southwest of Coldwater. Upon inspection of the premises a hedge of thirty barberries was found growing along a lane. These bushes had been planted about 20 years ago. Inspection of other wheat fields in the near vicinity revealed severe stem rust infection. A mild infection extended several miles around this location. Mr. Dues states that he has been unable to produce wheat of good quality for the past several years. This year his wheat is of light weight, the grain being only partially filled out. Last year wheat grown in a field adjoining the barberry hedge was practically a total loss. For some time Mr. Dues has been suspicious of the barberry hedge as his wheat losses were almost always greater than others in the neighborhood.

On Saturday afternoon, August 9, the field crews assembled in Celina for a group meeting. Dr. Pierstorff, Extension Pathologist of Ohio State University lead a very interesting discussion on the subject "Contact with Formers" and "Methods of Approach." This was followed by a group discussion which centered around the topic "Efficiency in Survey."

On August 19, accompanied by C. O. Violet, the Barberry Leader attended the summer meeting of Ohio nurserymen at the Ohio Experiment

Station at Wooster. The day was spent by a field trip through the various plots of the Station. No group meetings were held at this time.

Indiana - Agricultural Experiment Station, La Fayette - Wayne E. Leer

At a 4-H club camp in July, the County Agent of Delaware County reported the location of some bushes in Henry County. The lead was recently investigated and about 20 large bushes were found along a woods fence, and many small escaped bushes were found scattered through the woods. The bushes were loaded with berries. There was one large Japanese barberry bush in the planting which indicated that the original bushes had been planted. The bushes are along a main highway and afford an ideal place for a roadside demonstration. It is planned to put up such a demonstration early in September and leave it there until the area is worked in the spring.

A barberry demonstration was placed at the Bartholomew County fair from August 11 to 15. Field men are working in the county and the demonstration attracted much attention. Everyone wanted to see "one of those barberry bushes."

During the summer a large number of areas of escaped bushes, which have not been worked for several years, were inspected. The condition of many of these areas may be described as needing attention at an early date. In one area in Marshall County about 25 very large fruiting bushes were observed, indicating that the outer limits of the area were not reached during the survey in 1922. In Marion County two heavily fruiting bushes about 15 feet tall were found about twenty rods from the location of the last bush found in 1923. We plan to learn the condition of all areas of escaped bushes in Indiana and to get the fruiting bushes out as rapidly as possible.

About August 15 a letter was sent to all rural route boxes in the counties being surveyed. This served to renew interest in the work in these counties.

Illinois - Box 72, Post Office Building, Urbana - Robert W. Bills

A barberry exhibit was placed with the Illinois Department of Agriculture exhibit at the State Fair. The same materials will be used at the Central States Exposition at Aurora the following week.

During the first part of August the Barberry Leader visited several escaped areas in Stephenson County. In nearly every case all of the old bushes were dead and no seedlings were starting. It is gratifying to note the effectiveness of the second survey in that area.

Scouting around the Gurnee area in Lake County has shown that escaped bushes are growing in considerable numbers at the three mile limit. Many of the escaped bushes are bearing fruit apparently for the first time and the resurvey was timed perfectly to prevent further spread. On the day of greatest activity for the squad in the Lake Woods, which is the center of the area, the field men averaged one bush every 40 seconds all day long.

The squad working in Jefferson Township, Stephenson County, held an educational meeting which was attended by about 170 farmers residing in the vicinity where the men are working. The barberry and rust films were shown and talks made by the field men. One lead was received and investigated, resulting in the finding of 10 barberry bushes.

Michigan - Michigan State College, East Lansing - Francis B. Powers

During the first half of August the barberry eradication campaign progressed slowly in Leelanau County where the topography was rough with hills and swamps, but more rapidly in Presque Isle County, where wooded and cut over land is being strip scouted along the edges except where areas near barberry locations necessitate more intensive work. Few bushes have been found during the past two weeks.

The Barberry Leader has placed demonstrations and spoken at two sectional 4-H Club camps since August 1, one in north-central Michigan at Graylord and one in the upper peninsula at Chatham. He has also spoken to the boys and girls in two county camps this month, Newaygo County camp at Fremont and Muskegon County camp at Fruitport. The attendance at the meetings included 1000 boys and girls and about 75 adults. The talks were illustrated by lantern slides, and the demonstrations included live bushes, signs, life cycle models, etc. About 1500 boys and girls in Michigan have heard the story of the barberry and its relation to black stem rust this summer.

The Ionia Free Fair, the largest county fair in Michigan, closed August 16. The barberry demonstration there was placed with the exhibits of the State Department of Agriculture and the White Pine Blister Rust Campaign. A gallows of customary size with steps and platform is supplied by the Blister Rust Office and a death cell is supplied by the Barberry Eradication Office. The death cell contains common barberry and black currants condemned to die and the gallows has two nooses with a large barberry bush hanging from one and a large black currant bush from the other. Prominent signs on each explain the law covering the death sentences. This demonstration together with rusted grain, other bushes, and electric signs will be used at the Upper Peninsula State Fair at Escanaba and at the Michigan State Fair at Detroit.

Wisconsin - State Capitol Annex, Madison - Ralph M. Caldwell

Survey work in Wisconsin has been progressing very rapidly in the past month with two squads of men completing their assigned areas. One squad, after finishing the survey of an area in Rock County, has moved its activities to Dodge County. Several hundred bushes have already been eradicated since moving to this county. The squad working in Green County has completed the Cadiz township area and has moved to Iowa County, where they will scout along the bluffs of the Wisconsin River. This area is very heavily infested with barberry bushes, and black stem rust has been causing unusually severe damage, according to farmers in that vicinity.

A very attractive barberry demonstration was conducted at the Green County fair. Judged by the attitude with which the fair visitors received the demonstration, it may be safe to assume that this publicity was well worth while.

As a result of a live bush display in Browntown, a large fruiting barberry bush was located some distance from the boundaries of the Cadiz township area which was being surveyed.

WESTERN REGIONMinnesota - University Farm, St. Paul - Leonard W. Melander

Preparations are being made for the demonstration at the Minnesota State Fair. We succeeded in obtaining the same space we have had in other years, which is one of the best in the Agricultural Building.

During the past few weeks we have been finding bushes in both Rice and Dakota Counties. In Rice County the men located an area of escaped bushes which had originated from seed from an old hedge which had been dug in 1922. Their suspicions were aroused when they noticed that the grasses were more heavily rusted in that vicinity than in other districts in which they had worked. Not only that, but the wheat had been more heavily rusted in that vicinity. To date they have found about 34 barberry bushes; some of them fairly large. In Dakota County the field men found a small hillside covered with underbrush which was composed of poison ivy, raspberries, hazel brush, and common barberry. They destroyed more than 300 bushes, mostly small ones, on this hillside. If these bushes had been allowed to remain for five years a tremendous amount of fruit would have been produced. These bushes developed from seed that had been spread by birds from an old hedge which had been destroyed some years ago.

On Saturday, August 23, we held our annual field conference. This is also the time when the men in the various crews will be shifted. This is done to give the new men experience in working in different counties.

District No. 1 - State College Station, Fargo, N. Dak. - George C. Mayoue

Montana - This year may have been too hot and too dry for Montana's wheat and rust but it does not seem to have been so for the barberries, according to the finds being made by the field men in Carbon and Yellowstone Counties. The squads report original plantings as well as many escaped bushes, but the finds so far indicate that the preliminary survey was quite thorough, only two or three original plantings have been found.

As a result of finding escaped bushes along the river more than a mile from an original planting, field men in Carbon County plan to spend some time on intensive survey of the river bottom. Because of the dense underbrush it is expected that this work will proceed very slowly.

In Yellowstone County the opposite change is being made. After spending some time on the bottoms of the Yellowstone River and finding no bushes, it has been decided to devote the remainder of the time to farmstead second survey, going into the river work only in the immediate area of old properties. From this squad comes the report of a planting of six purple leaved bushes, the only surviving shrubs in an old orchard where dry weather had taken toll of everything during the past few years.

Demonstrations are being placed at the State Fair in Helena and at fairs in Lewistown and Billings.

A field conference was held at Billings on August 9. The conference was held principally for the purpose of discussing in a round table fashion the various problems which had come up in the course of the work.

North Dakota - Despite intensive survey on the part of field men in Burke, McLean, and Mountrail Counties, there are few finds in that part of the State.

After concluding an intensive survey of native material growing in a series of gulches near the South Dakota line west of Ellendale, a squad of four men is beginning a similar survey of the adjacent farming community in an attempt to find the source of a local rust area that has persisted for several years. Because of the topography of the region and the extent of the spread a problematical location of the source is at best difficult.

Following a thorough study of a rust area in the Devils Lake region, a squad of four men is now carrying on an intensive survey of that district. Similar work in the town of Penn and immediate vicinity failed to reveal the source of a very local rust spread observed at that point. Although no large finds have been made, scattered bushes have been located in various parts of the State.

Wyoming - Recent rains have made many roads impassable and has tended to slow up the intensive farm-to-farm survey now being conducted in a rather thinly settled part of Crook County. These same rains brought bad roads and also a rather general spread of stem rust on barley and wheat, quite in contrast to the scarcity of rust during the early part of the summer.

District No. 2 - Box 66, State College Station, Brookings, S. Dak.
Raymond O. Bulger

The mid-summer conference of South Dakota field men was held at Brookings, South Dakota on August 8. Mr. Meier and Mr. Fletcher were present and gave some interesting and instructive talks besides entering into some of the discussions. A program of talks and discussion by the field men was arranged by Mr. Frandsen, the assistant leader.

The field men reported that in general they were receiving fine cooperation from the people in their counties. In spite of the fact that they are working in relatively open country, they have found barberries in every county except one. This one is being covered a third time this year. Some of the finds were in areas where stem rust has been unusually severe in past years and are very significant.

Nebraska field men are finding an unusual number of barberries considering the type of territory in which they are working. More than 6,000 bushes and seedlings have been found this season in the State. Two especially fine spreads of stem rust to rye have been observed and mapped. The work in Howard County is nearly completed, and this squad will then move to Valley County to help the squad there. Most of the Nebraska crew will resign during September. Only two men will be able to work late.

State fair demonstrations are being planned for the Nebraska State Fair at Lincoln, August 29 to September 5, and at the South Dakota State Fair, Huron from September 8 to 12. Demonstrations were held at four county fairs in Nebraska and one in South Dakota.

At the request of the State Supervisor of Agricultural Education in South Dakota, the District Leader appeared at the summer conference of Smith-Hughes instructors. A talk on barberry work and possible cooperation in the future was given before this group.

Mr. Yount, the assistant leader in Nebraska, reports that he is receiving fine cooperation from the State Department of Public Instruction and from the county superintendents. The file cases and other educational materials are being distributed through the county superintendents in 18 counties. These are largely the counties in which the survey has been carried on this year and will be carried on in the next few years.

District No. 3 - Agricultural College, Ft. Collins, Colo. - E. A. Lungren

Colorado - During the past few weeks survey work has been progressing in El Paso County where many barberries have been found. Large bushes have been found scattered over the hillside on the first range of mountains west of Colorado Springs. These barberries apparently have escaped from planted bushes in the city of Colorado Springs. Also in several draws where the timber and other shrubs are very thick, barberries have been found growing among them. The territory which we have been scouting in El Paso County has been very difficult to work.

The barberry field men were guests at the farmer's luncheon club in Colorado Springs where they gave talks and demonstrations to some 30 farmers on the findings and the progress of their work in that county. In order to familiarize everyone present with the common barberry, sprigs of the bush were placed in vases on the tables. The people in El Paso County are very much interested in our campaign and have been impressed with the work.

Southern Wyoming - The work in Goshen County was completed the latter part of July and the team moved over to Platte County where they are surveying a large irrigated district around Wheatland. To date they have found 1 barberry in the county, however, the farmers are very much interested in the work and are cooperating. The one bush located by the field men was about ten feet high and was on an old homestead near Wheatland. Such a find is indeed important for a bush of that size could spread a large amount of rust in this rich area. Parts of the bush were placed in a window of one of the hardware stores in Wheatland, making a fine display. A very thorough survey of this vicinity is now being made for escaped bushes and seedlings.

Western Nebraska - The men in this section have completed the survey of Scotts Bluff County and have moved over to Morrill County. To date no barberries have been found in Morrill County, however, 6 bushes were found on 5 properties in Scotts Bluff County. From the type of territory it appears that barberries will be found in this county. We have had very good cooperation with the county agents, farmers, and business men of the county.

During the first week in August, Mr. Meier visited the District. The District Leader accompanied him to Colorado Springs where some time was spent in going over the escaped areas that were found there. From Colorado Springs we visited the properties in western Nebraska that were found in Scotts Bluff County. Observations were made on the rural properties northwest of Scotts Bluff which had started rust in the vicinity.

The winter wheat in District No. 3 escaped rust damage and has been cut. The spring wheat was rusted but not sufficient to do any marked damage. The oats have had very little rust this year.

